

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

Released: August 5, 2002, 1:00 p.m.
Published Weekly
CWP Vol 02 No 21



WASHINGTON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

U.S. Department of
Agriculture
Washington Agricultural Statistics Service

Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending August 4, 2002

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Grain Yields Reported Below Average to Near Average
Vegetable Crops Slowed Due to Cooler Weather**

FIELD CROPS

Wheat harvest was progressing in the western portion of Whitman County, with harvest just beginning in the eastern half. Grain yields reported so far have generally been from just below average to near average. In Benton County, hot weather was beginning to affect potato size. Early potato harvest began in Grant County. Christmas tree growers in Grays Harbor County reported initial sales to wholesalers, with Noble fir trees being in short supply.

LIVESTOCK

Livestock producers in Grays Harbor County were feeding supplemental hay to compensate for desiccated forage where irrigation was not available. Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 42% poor, 41% fair and 15% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Sweet corn and other vegetable crops were slowed because of the cooler weather in western Washington. Blueberry, raspberry, and tomato growers kept busy harvesting fruit to keep up with the rapid ripening from warmer weather earlier in the week. In Benton County, early stone fruit harvest continued and grapes were beginning to color. Onion harvest began in Franklin County.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.9	6.9

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	14	47	39	0
Subsoil	0	43	57	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	0	4	96	0
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Harvested	39	16	41	36
Spring Wheat Harvested	15	6	20	13
Barley Harvested	11	4	12	14
Potatoes Harvested	20	19	14	12
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	95	83	92	95
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	26	15	27	21
Corn Harvested for Silage	1	0	0	0
Dry Peas Harvested	14	12	16	20

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	6	46	42	5
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	94	6
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	16	58	23	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	94	6
Barley Dryland	1	10	58	28	3
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	91	9
Potatoes	0	0	17	77	6
Corn	0	0	8	92	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	2	5	93	0
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Grays Harbor: Ag producers continued to enjoy another week of beautiful summer weather with minimal rainfall and pleasant temperatures. Near the end of the week, cooler temperatures set in. The sweet corn crop looked excellent due to almost ideal growing conditions this past month. Both the blueberry and raspberry harvests were in full swing on U-Pick farms, with excellent yields being reported. Greenhouse tomato growers were harvesting fruit on a daily basis in order to keep up with rapid ripening. Christmas tree growers reported initial sales to wholesalers, with Noble fir trees being in short supply. Livestock producers were feeding supplemental hay to compensate for desiccated forage where irrigation was not available. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields.

Pierce/South King: The weather cooled off, which set corn back a little. Other vegetable crops were also

slowed because of the cool weather. There were no reports of unusual weather conditions.

Thurston: Temperatures shifted from being fairly warm to cool at the end of the week. Non-irrigated pastures and hayfields on parched soils created a tapestry of color, dominated by multiple shades of brown across the rural landscape. The soil was so dry in parts of the county, that cultivation of any kind resulted in enormous dust clouds. Blueberry harvest was in full swing with fruit maturing quickly due to the recent warm temperatures. Christmas tree growers reported aphid infestations in true fir. Ag producers were busy throughout the week keeping crops watered, where irrigation was available. Dry soil conditions were validated with the first hints of fall color displayed in the foliage of Oregon ash and vine maples.

CENTRAL

Benton: Hot weather was beginning to affect potato size. Early stone fruit harvest continued. Grapes were beginning to color.

Benton (2nd Report): Winter wheat harvest was almost over with yields ranging from average to below average. There were no reports of damaged crops. Alfalfa cutting and potato harvest began.

Franklin: Potato, carrot, and sweet corn harvests continued. The quality of the crops were good. Onion harvest began. At farmer's markets, many vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, summer

squash, and cucumbers were available. The second cutting of alfalfa was complete, and the third cutting was well underway.

Grant: Sweet corn harvest was underway. Crucifer and onion seed harvests continued. Early potato harvest began.

Yakima: Average temperatures were mainly cooler, varying from 8 degrees below normal to 5 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Winter wheat harvest was winding down, with yields being reported as mostly average to below average in the southern end of the county. The quality has been less than recent years, as elevators reported generally higher dockage and lower test weights.

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest got into full swing as producers in most areas were cutting. Spring crops in the lower elevations were reported to be the worst ever according to some producers. The excessive heat in late June and early July, compounded the problem of below normal rainfall this spring. Winter wheat crops on summer fallow were near normal or just below normal in most cases.

Lincoln: Winter wheat harvest was on the downhill side in the southern end of the county and was just getting started in the northern end.

Stevens: Last week brought a cooling trend without precipitation. Harvest began in some areas. Irrigated hay producers finished up the second cutting.

Whitman: Wheat harvest was progressing in the western portion of the county, with harvest just beginning in the eastern half. Grain yields reported so far have generally been from just below average to near average.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

August 5, 2002

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	44	70	59	-5	65	-26	2	-26	0.01	-0.27	1	33.06	-1.87	95	157
Everett	48	70	59	-5	66	-32	1	-27	0.05	-0.23	1	31.08	-4.15	88	164
Hoquiam	47	65	58	-4	54	-23	0	-14	0.07	-0.16	1	63.76	-2.79	96	179
Kelso	43	79	62	-4	85	-20	17	-18	0.09	-0.13	1	40.70	-4.50	90	154
Olympia	40	77	60	-5	68	-30	6	-22	0.10	-0.11	1	58.85	9.43	119	169
Seattle-Tacoma	49	75	62	-5	82	-30	13	-29	0.03	-0.15	2	38.25	2.09	106	153
Shelton	42	75	60	-7	70	-42	8	-34	0.04	-0.17	1	68.52	4.76	107	160
Tacoma	45	78	61	-5	80	-25	16	-21	0.00	-0.21	0	30.01	-9.07	77	129
Vancouver	46	83	65	-1	109	0	39	-3	0.02	-0.19	1	37.45	-2.75	93	154
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	38	83	64	-6	98	-35	29	-34	0.00	-0.07	0	7.03	-1.55	82	85
Omak	50	85	68	-2	126	-7	56	-7	0.00	-0.20	0	9.24	-4.86	66	72
Stampede Pass	37	69	51	-6	20	-29	0	-7	0.33	0.02	2	76.41	-2.81	96	171
Wenatchee	52	84	69	-7	134	-39	64	-36	0.00	-0.07	0	5.39	-2.53	68	63
Yakima AP	43	90	66	-6	115	-32	45	-32	0.00	-0.07	0	7.02	-0.59	92	63
NORTHEAST															
Colville	43	88	67	-2	117	-7	47	-9	0.00	-0.21	0	15.49	-4.75	77	84
Deer Park	39	82	62	-9	87	-53	20	-50	0.00	-0.14	0	21.12	3.30	119	120
Spokane AP	46	83	65	-6	107	-33	37	-33	0.00	-0.14	0	13.90	-1.95	88	111
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	52	88	71	-6	146	-36	76	-36	0.00	-0.07	0	5.77	-1.23	82	64
Moses Lake	48	89	69	-8	133	-49	63	-49	0.00	-0.07	0	5.78	-1.22	83	66
Quincy	48	87	69	-4	132	-22	62	-22	0.00	-0.07	0	6.28	-1.21	84	60
Ritzville	43	86	65	-6	108	-32	38	-32	0.00	-0.07	0	9.93	-0.99	91	78
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	47	96	72	-8	157	-46	87	-46	0.00	-0.07	0	5.64	-0.56	91	51
Pasco	44	94	69	-7	135	-47	65	-46	0.00	-0.07	0	5.95	-1.20	83	59
Pullman	34	82	62	-6	82	-37	16	-33	0.00	-0.16	0	17.62	-2.66	87	109
Walla Walla AP	50	92	71	-7	147	-36	77	-35	0.00	-0.14	0	14.92	-3.84	80	104
Whitman Mission	38	93	69	-4	131	-23	61	-23	0.00	-0.14	0	13.20	0.01	100	97
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	43	82	65	-7	105	-42	35	-42	0.00	-0.22	0	21.28	-3.49	86	119
Lewiston ID	50	93	74	-3	167	-13	97	-9	0.00	-0.14	0	10.07	-1.66	86	105

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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